



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Meeting of Borough Council
Executive Session 6:00 Personnel
Council Chambers
Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Present: Mr. Basalyga
Mr. Cafarelli
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Gill
Ms. Gilliam
Ms. Tessaro
Mayor Miller

Also Present: Mario Leone, Fire Chief Larrick, Police Chief DeLuca, Solicitor Chesney, James Brunner/NIRA

Absent: Ms. DeVincent

II. Invocation – Rick Thornhill, Senior Pastor, New Hope Community Church Ambridge

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Comment on/off *Agenda Items* (5 minutes per speaker)

Stanley Williamson – (no address provided). Served 20 years in the Navy. Saturday was Veterans Day. Was on seven ships in seven years. Served in places where people only dreamed of being. Council thanked Mr. Williamson for his service.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

October 10th - Regular Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve the October 10th Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Comment by Mr. Gill regarding the notations when Bishop Crumb spoke; Mr. Gill asked to listen to the recording. Mr. Leone recommended the approval be tabled. Ms. Tessaro asked Mr. Gill to first sentence was not attributed to Bishop Crumb. Ms. Tessaro advised the motion will be to approve the Minutes as amended. Solicitor Chesney recommended that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to table the Minutes from October 10th, until the next meeting on November 28; seconded by Mr. Gill.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes

Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

VI. Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:(For the month of November)

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$269,690.23	Paid: \$158,270.05
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$ 693.25	Paid: \$ 2,384.92
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$ 29.00
4. 2021 Capital Note	Unpaid: \$136,669.25	Paid: \$ 51,655.25
5. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
6. Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
7. Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
8. Firemen’s Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
9. Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
10. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
11. Bicentennial Fund	Unpaid: \$ 1,275.00	

Motion by Mr. Dunn to ratify and pay the bills and expenses for the month of November, 2023; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

VII. Consent Agenda

Those matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of Council, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

• **Motion to approve 6 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer’s Report for **November 2023**.

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to approve the Borough Treasurer’s Report for November 2023; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

2. Consider to action to grant a Handicap Parking Space for Jeffrey R. Moore of 342 Maplewood Avenue as approved by Police Chief DeLuca.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve a handicap parking space for Jeffrey R. Moore of 342 Maplewood Avenue as approved by Police Chief DeLuca; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes

Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

3. Consider action to approve OEV “Christmas in the Village on December 2nd from 2pm – 9 pm and December 3rd from 2pm – 7 pm. Closing of Church Street between Boyleston and 14th Street.
4. Consider Action to approve the Ambridge Area Chamber of Commerce “Christmas on Merchant” on Friday, December 8th.
5. Consider action to approve the Ambridge Fireworks Committee request to display Fireworks on July 6th, 2024, with a Postponement Date of July 7th, 2024.
6. Consider action to approve St. John’s Lutheran Church’s request for December 2nd from 2pm – 8pm for Live Nativity, Bake & Food Sale event. Limiting public vehicle use of Creese Street.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve Consent Agenda Items 3-6; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

IX: New Business

1. Consider Action to Approve the resignation of Kelly Shaw from the Planning Commission effective October 26th.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the resignation of Kelly Shaw from the Planning Commission effective October 26, 2023; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

2. Consider Action to Approve the Police Department Gun Buy-back program as recommended by the Police Chief.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the Police Department Gun Buy-back program as recommended by the Police Chief; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Comment by Mr. Gill asking the Chief where the money is coming from. Chief DeLuca advised that the officers be given the opportunity to buy their guns for the same amount as the trade in value. The company will give us an offer for the gun, the officer will be able to purchase the gun for that value.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

3. Consider Action to Approve the discussions and negotiations for free Digital Community Sign at 8th Street Playground and Rt 65 Gateway.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve the discussions and negotiations for a free Digital Community Sign at 8th Street Playground and Rt. 65 Gateway; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Comment by Mr. Gill asking if this is the only company. Mr. Leone stated the proposal is by a company that runs a non-profit and is willing to install the sign at no cost to the Borough. It is a digital electronic sign that each minute you can put a community message and advertising. Also, a message from the non-profit relating to preventing human trafficking. Mr. Leone and Solicitor Chesney will work together with the non-profit on verbiage for Council’s final approval.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	6-0

4. Consider Action to Advertise for the RFQ for the \$500,000.00 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Project.

Motion by Basalyga to advertise for the RFQ for the \$500,000.00 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Project; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	6-0

5. Consider Action to Advertising of Bids for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project. (*tentative*)

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to table action to advertise for bids for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project; seconded by Mr. Gill.

Comment by Mr. Leone advising of some potential issues with the location of some light poles and gas lines. Discussions are going on with Columbia Gas. Still anticipate advertising the bids by the end of the year.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	6-0

6. Consider Action to Advertise for Council Budget Meetings on November 21st and December 5th at 6:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to advertise for Council Budget Meetings on November 21st and December 5th at 6:00 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes			

Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0
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7. Consider Action to approve hiring Tyler Adams as a part-time firefighter/code enforcement officer pending physical and drug test results, as recommended by the Fire Chief.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve hiring Tyler Adams as a part-time firefighter/code enforcement officer pending physical and drug test results, as recommended by the Fire Chief; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

8. Consider Action to Approve Resolution 2023-9 Adopting Guidelines for Borough Police Officers When Making Authorized Warrantless Summary Arrests.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve Resolution 2023-9 adopting guidelines for Borough Police Officers when making authorized warrantless summary arrests; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Comment by Chief DeLuca that the resolution is needed for our accreditation process. We have to have proof that we are allowed to make these warrantless arrests as approved by Council. Solicitor Chesney added this is related to Title 42 that does not allow an officer to make a warrantless arrest for a summary offense. Once the guidelines are in place, officers will be able to make those warrantless arrests. Mr. Gill asked what the difference is, and Solicitor Chesney provided examples of warrantless arrests.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	6-0

Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn reported that they did meet on October 18 and discussed the time for the Halloween Parade. Also discussed the ladder truck repair which is delayed until after Thanksgiving. We discussed the gun buy-back program for the Police Department. Also discussed the Civil Service issue. Ms. Tessaro recognized Fire Chief Larrick for all the hard work in getting eight firefighters training for certification. Amazing to see even volunteer firefighters putting time and effort to get this certification. Also, for providing the fire prevention at schools and day care centers. Also point out Police Chief getting us on the road to accreditation.
2. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Miller stated she attended her sixth ribbon cutting this past weekend. Some of the businesses are seeing a slow down in their business due to winter coming, so encourage everyone to share their events, etc. so we can keep those businesses open. Mayor Miller met with PennDOT on November 6 (facilitated by Rep. Matzie’s office) to discuss Borough concerns. Another meeting is scheduled for November 27 regarding crosswalks and parking on sidewalk issue. PennDOT projects are scheduled out until 2027. Mr. Leone will assess some lighting concerns. Requests by the Borough can go to PennDOT for consideration. Would like a “No Turn on Red” at 4th and 65 but may require a PennDOT study.
3. Code Committee – Mr. Basalyga presented the Code Enforcement Report. Inspection Program conducted 91 inspections this month. Code Sweeps sent out 738 letters year-to-date. Merchant

Street Project sent 88 letters year-to-date. Abandoned Vehicles sent 80 letters year-to-date. High Grass sent 728 High Grass Letters year-to-date.

4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli addressed items that are in need and would like to speed things up. Need a meeting with Public Works on Friday November 17 at 9:00 a.m. on the skid steer. We will need to purchase one. There was a recent investment of \$5,000.00 and a new issue has come up with \$10,000.00 for the repair. The current equipment is a 2012 skid steer. The backhoe is used far less often than the skid steer. The skid steer is a higher priority than the backhoe. We also have to look at the budget for this. We are having an issue with our part-time employees leaving. We may want to look for a full-time position in order to retain good employees.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Gilliam has not met but will have a meeting before the end of the year. Mayor Miller reminded that the rules and regulations for the parks do need to be addressed.
6. Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brunner provided an update about Henning Street Park. The contractor got the inlet installed. Fencing and sidewalks were started last week. Latches on the gates still need to be finished. Met with Columbia Gas to review their 2024-2025 projects to make sure there are no issues with our road paving projects. Started work on the cost estimates for grant submission for another road program next year. Ms. Tessaro asked about whether notification was received from Columbia Gas. Mr. Leone advised that there are three contractors working on this project for Columbia Gas. Mr. Brunner advised that we try to coordinate with Columbia Gas, but they don’t provide firm dates when they will be working where. Ms. Tessaro asked about the sinkhole at 23rd and Beaver. Mr. Brunner will take a look at it. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the catch basin, what type of financial reimbursement are we going to get from the contractor. Mr. Brunner stated that there won’t be any additional reimbursement beyond them doing the updated work for free. Mr. Brunner will see if there is any more he can do with the contractor.
7. Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Chesney has some ordinances that need adopted: IPMC with the Fire Chief’s changes, ordinance that repeals or revokes the Civil Service Ordinance that was passed in 2014. Change discussed earlier about the Sunshine Act. 2021 Sunshine Act was amended for government agencies, whether planning commission, civil service commission or governing body such as Council, township board of Commissioners, they can only take action on items that are on the agenda. They do allow for certain exceptions. In order to take action on any item not on the agenda, it has to follow one of the three exceptions. You have to follow the process to add an item to the agenda. Must vote to have the item added to the agenda (which can be voted down). Does not have to have public notice if it’s an emergency. Mr. Gill asked if the public can still comment on something that is added to the agenda (since the public comment section is done). Solicitor Chesney advised that going forward, all items must be on the agenda for Council to act, unless it falls under one of the three exceptions.
8. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone stated as a follow up to what Solicitor Chesney stated, you will see items on the agenda such as #5 listed as tentative, you will probably see more of the tentative items on the agenda and potentially table those items. We submitted a PennDOT Multimodal Grant for \$2.5 million targeted for the 8th Street upgrades. Grant is based on the Route 65 Corridor Study done. This comes from that finding. Today brought to the County our ARPA expenditures for reimbursement for \$1,340,761.45. We have a remaining balance of the County ARPA Funds of \$1,003,506.55. Now that Henning Park is complete, there are some remaining expenditures. We will then submit for reimbursement for the remaining funds through the DCED. Those monies will be redirected back into the Notes Capital Fund. Received a letter today from Councilwoman Beth DeVincent stating her resignation effective November 14, 2023. This resignation will be added to the next Workshop Agenda. Mayor Miller asked if we could send Councilwoman DeVincent a letter of appreciation. Mr. Gill asked about the green signs; still has the church listed as the Social Security Office. Mr. Leone stated that the “way finding” signs are under our jurisdiction. Sign at 8th and Merchant. Mr. Leone will check on that.

- X. **Official Reports** - Motion to accept Official Reports.
Motion by Mr. Basalyga to accept Official Reports; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.
All in favor; motion carried.
- XI. **Other Unfinished Business** – No unfinished business at this time.
- XII. **Adjournment**
Motion by Mr. Dunn to adjourn at 7:45p.m.; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Workshop Meeting: **November 28th, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

Budget Meeting: **November 21st & December 5th, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

Announcements:

Borough Offices will be closed on November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.